THE

FORTY-NINTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

American Sunday-School Union,

MAY, 1873.

PUBLISHED FOR GRATUITOUS CIRCULATION.

PHILADELPHIA:

No. 1122 CHESTNUT STREET.

FORTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY.

The increased importance of Union Sunday-School missions, and the breadth of the work, were admirably illustrated and enforced by the addresses, at the 49th Anniversary of the AMERICAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION, held in the Academy of Music, Philadelphia, May 6, 1873.

The distinguished speakers were from five different denominations, in which they hold highly responsible positions, and may, therefore be regarded as fairly reflecting the interest and sympathy of their several churches in this work of spreading the Gospel among the destitute, by means of Union Sunday-schools.

On taking the chair, Mr. T. U. WALTER (Baptist) remarked:

In the great West, where a vast population is growing up as if by magic, and where churches are, as yet, but few and far between, such work is demanded as can be done only by the American Sunday-School Union.

The Rev. M. D. HOGE, D.D. (Presbyterian), of Richmond, Va., eloquently said:

Without wishing to exalt or exaggerate one instrumentality at the expense of others, men that have had this subject nearest their hearts, and who have given to it their best thoughts, have very generally come to the conclusion that the Sunday-school ranks first among the institutions of the age, and that the American Sunday-School Union is the best instrumentality for diffusing the blessings of the Gospel among the spiritually destitute in a land like ours. * *

Of the necessity of such a work in the South he asserted:

There are neighbourhoods all through the Southern States where good men who have been trained to work, and who have the work at heart, must go and first excite an interest on the part of the people to be instructed, and then gather together and organize those who are willing to be taught, and then furnish the necessary text-books, and perhaps procure the very house where the little band shall gather; and what agency is so fully equipped, and in all respects, so ready to accomplish that beneficent work, as the agency whose anniversary you celebrate to-night? * * *

SUNDAY-SCHOOL WORK AMONG THE FREEDMEN.

I will say another thing, that in all this land there is not a people so susceptible to religious impressions as the coloured people, * * * needing just such teaching as it is the province of the Sunday-School Union to impart. The pious ingenuity of the people of God could not devise an institution better calculated to help them in every respect in which they most need aid for their proper training and development.

The Rev. H. M. SCUDDER, D.D. (Congregationalist), of Brooklyn, N. Y., in his pleasing address remarked:

It will be altogether a superfluous thing for me to speak, at any great length, of the importance of the work that is done by this Sunday-school Union. * * * It starts a Sunday-school in a place that cannot possibly organize a church, and then there will grow a Christian Church; and in this way the Sunday-School Union actually originates churches, which are left to determine for themselves what denomination they will connect themselves with. And here we have a further exhibition of the beautiful harmony that exists between union efforts and denominational outgrowth, for out of this very union Sunday-school there do grow denominational churches.

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FORTY-NINTH REPORT.

In presenting our Forty-ninth Annual Report we gratefully recognize the hand of God that has been upon us for good, and we humble ourselves as well under his chastening strokes.

The venerable and honourable President of the Society was gathered to his fathers, in a good old age, on the 31st of December, 1872, having served in that capacity for eleven years, and as Vice-President, previously, for six years. He was always our firm friend, and most liberal giver. At the time of his death due honours were rendered by the Officers and Managers, and a fitting memorial was entered on the records of the Society and published in the Sunday-School World.

Two of the Vice-Presidents of the Society, Mr. James. L. Reynolds of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Mr. Thomas E. Thompson of Palmyra, Missouri, have been removed by death; the former has stood in that relation for more than half a score of years, and, like the late President, testified his attachment to it by frequent gifts and by a generous bequest; the latter was warmly attached to the Society, and an active Christian worker. Mr. Charles E. Lex of Philadelphia, who died on the 15th of May, 1872, had been an active Manager and the legal adviser of the American Sunday-School Union for more than twenty years; and for a much longer time had been a most devoted and useful labourer for Christ.*

* On the 7th of May, the day succeeding our Anniversary, and while this Report was passing through the press, the Hon. Salmon P. Chase, another of the Vice Presidents of this Society, died suddenly in the city of New York, in the 66th year of his age. He presided at the forty-second anniversary of the Society, in 1866, and was elected Vice President that year. In all his official stations, as Governor of Ohio, U. S. Senator, Secretary of the Treasury, and Chief Justice of the United States, he bore an unimpeached character. In taking the chair at the forty-second anniversary, he said that "his profound sympathy with the work of the Society, had brought him there, and that what the Society had done in the past, could not measure what was before it in the future," &c.

We are under renewed obligations to the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY for generous grants of Bibles and Testaments to our needy schools; to ministers of the Gospel, Churches, Sunday-schools, and individuals for continued aid; to the religious and secular press for freely publishing information respecting the Society, as furnished by Rev. S. B. S. Bissell and others; to railroad and steamboat companies for favours to our missionaries, and to all who have received them to their homes and bidden them God speed.

PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT.

During the past year, eighteen new publications have been added to the catalogue, of which eleven were original.

PERIODICALS.—The Committee on Publication has great satisfaction in reporting an unusually large increase in the circulation of the Society's Periodicals during the past year. The general agreement upon a national scheme of Bible Lessons for 1872, seemed an appropriate time for this National Society, which introduced a series of uniform lessons into Sunday-schools nearly forty years ago, to begin explanations upon this new series for the use of American Sunday-schools, and the Rev. John Hall, D.D., of New York, cordially accepted the Society's invitation to prepare its lessons. THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL WORLD with these National (now International) Lessons is widely adopted by the Sunday-schools of America. The Rev. RICHARD NEWTON, D.D., as Editor of the Periodicals, continues his suggestive Sermons and his instructive Gleanings from Abroad, and enriches the pages of THE CHILD'S WORLD by his Scenes and Incidents in the Holy Land, and by articles upon the Lessons. The Rev. EDWIN W. RICE, who, as Assistant Editor, especially aided in opening the way for issuing the uniform lessons in the periodicals, assists in furnishing material for *The Sunday-School World* and *The Child's World*, and continues to edit the SCHOLARS' LESSON PAPER, designed for members of advanced Bible classes, and the INTERMEDIATE LESSON PAPER, which aims to meet the wants of the average Sunday scholar, with increasing success.

The Rev. H. Clay Trumbull, Normal Secretary, has especially enhanced the value of *The Sunday-School World* by his numerous articles upon Normal Sunday-school Work, and by his Monthly Concert Exercise in harmony with the Bible Lessons.

The Committee are gratified to add, that many other eminent

teachers and writers are cheerfully contributing matter calculated to increase the usefulness of the Society's Periodicals.

MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT.

The Treasurer reports receipts on account of the missionary operations of the Society, including legacies, amounting to $85,513 99, and expenditures amounting to $89.458 53.

GENERAL SUMMARY BY DEPARTMENTS, MARCH 1, 1872-3.

	Schools Organized.	Teachers.	Scholars.	Schools visited and aided by donation.	Teachers.	Scholars.	Bibles and Testaments Distributed.	Families Visited.	Miles Travelled	Addresses Delivered.
New England Department	32	186	881	95	1,396	10,944	63	994	11,527	102
New York Department	5	38	214	64	420	2,493	21	384	1,233	167
New Jersey	33	209	2,010	315	2,703	29,430	58	2,606	6,418	210
Pennsylvania	50	292	1,730	259	1,833	12,642	590	1,142	12,084	345
Ohio and Indiana	74	425	3,119	190	1,557	14,081	138	2,028	21,989	437
Michigan	46	282	1,531	454	1,322	10,273	443	1,267	26,799	582
North Western Department	303	1,438	9,438	542	3,535	29,684	2,721	1,925	35,687	925
Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas	173	1,036	7,818	271	1,603	14,039	1,166	1,092	27,825	556
Southern Department	261	1,429	12,622	649	4,531	36,360	4,226	1,946	42,483	1,227
Pacific Coast	22	116	690	27	461	3,118		539	2,987	71
Colorado	4	18	139						275	15
Total	1003	5,469	40,192	2,866	19,361	165,064	9,426	13,923	189,307	4,637

THE NORMAL SECRETARY'S WORK.

The results attained in this new department during the past year, as in the former, attest the wisdom, importance and benefit of this advanced and special movement.

The work of the Normal Secretary, in presenting improved methods of Sunday-school instruction and management, and in promoting teacher-training, is in growing demand throughout the country. During the past year Mr. Trumbull has prosecuted it in eighteen of the states and territories, travelling more than 21,000 miles, making 127 addresses, and meeting or aiding 110 Sunday-schools, comprising 2758 teachers, and 21,625 scholars.

This labour has included the conduct of teacher's institutes, attendance at the national and state conventions, conferences with gatherings of superintendents and teachers, and coöperation with local and general committees formed for the prosecution of a similar work, as

well as addresses to popular assemblies from the pulpit and platform. Three colleges and one theological seminary have been addressed by the Normal Secretary on special invitation, and calls for further effort in this line at similar institutions have been declined from a pressure of such engagements. Some sixteen denominations of Christians have been met in this work of common importance to all.

More persons can be reached, in a sphere like this, through the pen than by the voice. Hence, in addition to a correspondence, extending to nearly every state and territory, to the amount of more than 1500 letters, the Normal Secretary has, during the year, furnished matter for the public press, including one of the periodicals of the Society, to the equivalent of one hundred and fifteen printed quarto pages, of the size of the SUNDAY-SCHOOL WORLD.

He has taken satisfaction in promoting the use and efficiency of the uniform system of Bible study, known as the International Series of Bible Lessons, and his hope is that in connection with the study of these lessons a uniform system of local normal classes, for the training of Sunday-school teachers to their work, will soon be generally adopted.

NEW ENGLAND DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Trumbull has continued his oversight of the missionary operations of the Society in this portion of the general field, while prosecuting the Normal work both here and beyond. During the past year Sunday-schools have been formed or aided in five of the six New England States.

Mr. W. N. Meserve laboured for some time in Bennington county, Vermont, at the request of the local Sunday-School Union of that county. His efforts were richly blessed, in the formation of new schools in needy districts, and in the improvement of old ones. His personal visitation of the people in their homes, to overcome their prejudices or their apathy, and enlist them in his plans for their neighbourhood; his hunting for the proper persons to superintend and to teach in new schools; and his looking up of the little ones, to secure their promise of attendance, were the means which, by God's crowning favour, resulted in most good to the field he canvassed. No gift of libraries would have secured the starting of the schools he organized. Indeed he had no occasion to donate a library, large or small, from the beginning to the end of his mission there. The

prospect of permanency to the schools thus opened depends largely on the aid and oversight given to them by the pastors and other workers in the neighbouring churches, and these friends were prompt and hearty in their promise of coöperation, although they did not count themselves competent to do, without his skilled assistance, the work which they summoned him to inaugurate.

Mr. Meserve has recently gone to the Pacific coast, as a worker in the sphere vacated by the death of W. F. Peters; and in his new field he has the sympathy and liberal support of those who knew him in New England.

Rev. S. H. Record has visited during the year four counties in Massachusetts, four in Rhode Island, and two in Connecticut. He organized thirteen new schools, re-organized four which had suspended, and visited 148 to give counsel or aid. In doing this work he reached nearly 20,000 teachers and scholars and visited personally more than 1000 families.

In the past nine years, Mr. Record has organized about 150 neighbourhood Sunday-schools in New England, comprising nearly 6500 teachers and scholars, besides visiting some 1300 other Sunday-schools, with a membership of 121,000. He has canvassed more than 150 townships, including nearly every school district of Rhode Island, and portions of Maine, Massachusetts and Connecticut—many of them again and again. He has travelled, in this work, more than 43,000 miles, visited upwards of 10,000 households, delivered 1550 sermons and addresses, and written above 10,000 pages of letters, inclusive of his correspondence with the little schools formed by him.

Several churches have already been formed on the basis of Sunday-schools organized by Mr. Record; and many other churches have been quickened and enlarged through the activities to which he has summoned them. Hundreds of young persons have been brought through these schools into the visible fold of our Lord Jesus; and a number of young men have entered from them on the work of the Gospel ministry.

One little Sunday-school organized in Rhode Island under great difficulties, eight years ago, has continued to prosper in all these years; and now it sends in a report of twelve more children brought to the Saviour from its membership. A large share of all the Sunday-schools organized in this state, by Mr. Record, are thus encouragingly prosperous.

A Sunday-school started in Worcester county, Massachusetts, two years ago, in a house where intoxicating liquors were sold, is gaining in vigour and influence, while the grog shop is waning.

Another school, organized about the same time, in the same county, in a community where an evangelical church died out forty years ago, is still well sustained. When the good man who was its first superintendent left the vicinity, another, converted after the school was formed, took his place, and now fills its efficiently.

In Connecticut, a Sunday-school was organized hopefully in a private house, in a district where for twenty years the school-house had been closed against anything of the kind, through the active opposition of infidels and other irreligionists.

A statistical report, published during the year, as prepared by Mr. John D. Wattles, the missionary of this Society for Connecticut, who is also secretary of the State Association of Sunday-school Teachers, giving an exhibit of the Sunday-schools of every name in the state, is thought to show the most complete canvass yet secured of any state in the Union. Mr. Wattles has done good service both in reaching waste places, organizing one new school and aiding forty schools, and in raising the standard in Sunday-school instruction through the agency of local conventions and institutes.

Calls for further work by missionaries of this Society were never more numerous or urgent from the New England states, than at present. Pastors ask to be aided by experts in this department, and promise to follow up faithfully the work which can best be commenced in this way. As an earnest of their sincerity in this matter, churches, Sunday-schools, and individuals in this field are giving more largely to the missionary funds of the American Sunday-School Union than ever before. The receipts from New England were increased during the last few months of the fiscal year, through a discussion in the public prints of its merits as a pioneer evangelizing agency of those churches giving most into its treasury. The better this work is understood, the more favour it finds with God's people.

NEW YORK DEPARTMENT.

F. H. Wisewell, Secretary, reports:

The importance of the work and the principles of strength underlying it are cordially recognized by our most intelligent Christian workers, pastors and people alike: and the Society is privileged to

count among its list of friends in this department names which stand as towers of strength to every good cause. And amid all the urgent calls for help from many a good cause on every side, pioneer Sunday-school work has been nobly remembered. A Sunday-school newly enlisted in supporting a Sunday-school missionary, declares in its recent anniversary report:

Our thanks are due to the American Sunday-School Union for furnishing us the very channel we have sought for doing the Lord's work among his needy children, and at the same time putting us into a close correspondence with that work which has quickened our own souls to healthful life.

The reflex influence coming back to our New York schools from this work, aside from its real results during the past year, confirms again the truth, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Under direction of our auxiliary, the New York Sunday-School Missionary Union, twenty-six student missionaries have been employed the past year to labour in connection with Sunday-schools among the mission population. Their work has been the visitation of poor families for the purpose of bringing parents and children alike under the influence of Bible teaching, and on the Sabbath, assisting in superintending Sunday-schools, teaching classes, conducting prayer-meetings.

The German missionary at Castle Garden has pursued his good work among newly arrived immigrants, as in years past. In connection with distributing the Scriptures for the American Bible Society, he also distributes on behalf of this Board such tracts and religious reading bearing upon the saving of children as can be furnished.

Money contributed comes to us mostly pledged for work in frontier districts, and we have consequently been enabled to do comparatively little in the State at large. But enough has been done to show the needs and the possibilities of this work even here. From correspondence of a missionary of the Society whose field lies within one hundred miles of New York city, we gather the following:

In a neighbourhood entirely destitute of any public means of grace I called at a home next door to the little school-house, and found a family of eight persons having no Bible nor religious book of any kind in their possession. They professed a desire to attend Sunday-school, but thought it would be impossible to maintain one. I visited the people, and on the following Sabbath met some forty persons, old and young, but among them there was not a single man who

would acknowledge Christ as his Lord and Master. I therefore gave a prayer-book to the person chosen to be superintendent, exacting from him the promise to read a prayer each Sabbath at the opening of the school. I supplied the new organization with books, commended it to the God of all grace, and went on my way. On my second visit, three months later, I found the superintendent had become a praying man, a number in the school had given evidence of a change of heart, and decided improvement was manifest in that entire district. Four miles from that place I started another Sunday-school numbering some sixty persons, and among them twenty German Catholics.

In other localities souls have been saved through the same simple agency of bringing them to study for themselves the truths of the mighty Word.

NEW JERSEY.

John K. F. Stites, missionary, reports:

Thirty-three schools, with over two thousand scholars, have been organized during the year and, with but few exceptions, are in a flourishing condition. As has been remarked in previous reports, many of these newly organized schools are in localities where they constitute all the advantages enjoyed for either religious or secular culture. In connection with my work, I have visited and aided a large number of other schools. Our Union schools are accomplishing great results, and opening the way for future church organizations. During the past year the Holy Spirit has visited a number of our schools, sealed the truths taught upon the hearts of the scholars, and led many into the fold of the blessed Saviour. It affords me pleasure to report three hundred and eighteen from these schools, who have been during that time, as I believe, truly converted to God, and are now striving to love and serve the Master. Three neat buildings have been completed during the year, and dedicated to our school and other religious services. Two others are in course of erection, and will ere long be ready for occupancy. Two churches have been organized, both of them growing out of our Union Sunday-schools. Branch railroads continue to be constructed through the Pines, affording greater facilities for working, and at the same time increasing the demands for both labour and means. New settlements are springing up, calling for help, whilst the older ones alike must be cared for. Hence the necessity for earnest work, as well as increased means.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Rev. R. Crittenden, missionary, reports:

Our work is done by separate counties, and always in connection with the County Sabbath-school Association, wherever such an or-

ganization exists. On entering a new county, the work is continued until every destitute community is supplied with a Bible-school.

The Plan of Operation:—*First.*—Personal visitation. Every township and district is canvassed in order to ascertain the Sunday-school condition of the county. *Second.*—The collection of complete statistics of all the schools in operation. *Third.*—The construction of a map exhibiting Sunday-schools of all kinds in the county, their location and denomination, and indicating districts needing new schools. *Fourth.*—In connection with the above, the performance of Sunday-school mission labours, planting new schools, encouraging and improving schools already established, distributing unsectarian religious reading by sale and donation. The advantages of this plan will appear in the following report for Clearfield county, which has been worked up in the manner indicated, during the past year.

Number of schools outside of Clearfield town, 102; entire membership, including officers, teachers and scholars, 7099; number of adult scholars, 1539; number of scholars who are church members, 718; number of denominational schools, 57; number of union schools, 45; number of schools continued all the year, 22; number of schools closed during winter months, 80; number of schools that have uniform lessons, 28; number of schools that hold teachers' meeting, 6; number that have every Sabbath collection, 10; the population of Clearfield county, given in the last U. S. Census, 1870, was 25,740.

Summary of Sabbath-School labours in Northern Central Pennsylvania, for the year: New schools established, 15; other schools visited and aided, 85; sermons and addresses delivered, 133; family visits, 315; copies of the Scriptures distributed by sale and donation 147; grants in books and papers to needy persons, and Sabbath-schools, $119 66; miles travelled, 4325.

J. B. Baughman, reports work in York and Adams Co.: New schools organized, 17; teachers in the same, 142; scholars, 607; schools visited aided and addressed, 99; teachers in the same, 329; scholars, 2070; families visited 339; Bibles and Testaments distributed, 94; miles travelled, 3134; institutes held, 5.

All the schools organized have been in successful operation; the majority of them are kept open all the year.

I find it a hard matter to get men competent or willing to superintend schools in destitute places. Many parents ignorant of what the Bible teaches, after being interested in the Sunday-school become earnest and zealous. In a number of places prayer-meetings have been organized in connection with the school. Institutes and teachers' meetings have been organized and held all over my field. In many schools the International Uniform Lessons have been introduced, and are considered a very great advantage to the teachers and scholars. Protracted meetings have been held in quite a number of places, and many have been hopefully converted to God.

Rev. C. Reimensnyder, missionary in Berks and Lancaster county, says:

The entire number of schools organized, visited, addressed, and aided, 76; teachers in these, 857; scholars in same, 5612; families visited, 291; Bibles and Testaments distributed, 340; miles travelled 3483; addresses and sermons, 94.

Peculiar difficulties exist in my field, but the work is steadily progressing. A general survey of the whole field inspires me with hope and encouragement in the prosecution of my work. The prejudice against Sunday-schools, which was so widely spread here a few years ago, and which made the organization of new schools so difficult, is slowly but steadily subsiding. We have now three large and flourishing schools connected with churches, which for many years maintained an attitude of indifference and opposition to them. Many thousands of children in my field are still out of the Sunday-school, but by patient and persistent efforts new schools can be established, and this great multitude of youths gathered into them and instructed in the way, the truth, and the life.

INDIANA AND OHIO.

Rev. B. W. Childlaw, who has diligently laboured in the Society's service for 36 years, reports:

Last year I travelled 12,000 miles in the prosecution of my work, attending state Sunday-school conventions, county and township meetings, Sunday-school anniversaries, and in visiting and organizing schools, where my labours were needed and appreciated. I made one hundred Sunday-school addresses, in log cabins, in district school-houses, in the open air beneath forest trees, and in Sunday-school rooms and churches. During the year, I aided directly or indirectly, in organizing 15 new schools, numbering 106 teachers, and 609 scholars. Visited, or aided by donations of books, 23 schools with 211 teachers, and 1700 scholars. To these 38 schools, I donated $157 32 worth of our excellent publications, besides a good supply of Bibles and Testaments kindly furnished by the American Bible Society.

During the year I frequently visited and spent some time in the Ohio Reform Farm School, where the State has over 400 of its wayward, vicious and criminal boys under its care. I have also visited many of our County Infirmaries, in a few of them "pauper children" enjoy the advantages of religious instruction in a Sunday-school, through the kindness of outside friends; yet, a large portion of the youth in these institutions are very much neglected in their Christian training and instructions.

I greatly regret to lose the co-operation of Brother Alter, of Mitchell, Ind., who is transfered to another field, and of other esteemed brethren whose labours we cannot continue for the want of means. The agency of the American Sunday-School Union in diffusing Divine truth and impressing Bible teaching on the intellect and heart of the undenominational masses, is as much needed to-day in the work of home evangelization as ever; and why should it not be greatly enlarged?

As I enter upon my *thirty-seventh* year of Sunday-school missionary labour, commissioned by the American Sunday-School Union, I would raise my "Ebenezer," for hitherto the Lord has brought me, and trusting in my Divine Lord, cheered by the continued confidence of the Society and the brethren with whom I labour, and the liberality of the esteemed friend in New York who generously supports me in my work, I would meet the labours, trials, and duties of another year, with a deep sense of my duty to the cause of early religious education and to the American Sunday-School Union in its great mission to save the youth of our country.

MICHIGAN.

Rev. Mr. Wright, our efficient superintendent, has been for some time much worn down by his arduous cares and labours, but much has been accomplished, and the work of the new year is entered upon with hopefulness.

Deacon A. Upson, our veteran missionary, now twenty-one years in the service, says:

My field now consists of four or five counties, and I find plenty of work to do. My work the past year does not give as good a showing as some previous years, yet I trust good has been done. The outline gives the following figures: Travelled over 2,800 miles, organized 11 new Sunday-schools, and re-organized 9 others, which number 118 teachers, and 620 scholars. I have also aided by visiting and otherwise 33 Sunday-schools, with 262 teachers and 1495 scholars.

As to the situation of the new schools, one of them was in the woods where some of the people had lived for eight years, and no religious meeting had been attended there. We had a gathering of the people, arranged for a Sunday-school, and for the first time there was the reading of the blessed Book of God in that log school-house. Not only the older people but the young were very much interested.

Rev. W. D. Potter, missionary for Genesee, Lapeer, Huron, Tuscola and Sanilac counties, says:

The sections desolated by the fires of 1871 have demanded that the schools organized before, be watched over and aided until they recover from the collapse of pecuniary, social, educational, and religious interests occasioned by the scourge. The wonderful Relief Movement for the supply of their immediate wants, the abundant crops of the past season, the pressure for help in the lumbering and timber interests, furnishing employment at high wages, and the important aid in rebuilding school-houses, &c., have placed them in a position of comfort better than could have been looked for.

E. S. Ingersoll has laboured in the Saginaw Valley and along the east shore as far as Cheboygan, and intends this year to push on around towards Traverse Bay to meet Mr. Densmore from the South, so supplying the still unexplored parts and the settlements on the field lately occupied by Mr. Badger. He says:

My statistical report shows a smaller number of schools organized, but a larger amount of labour in other departments of the work, and is as follows: schools organized, 16; teachers, 72; scholars, 413; schools aided, 103; addresses, 199; families visited, 285; miles travelled, 6,302. In the above I have omitted the number of teachers and scholars in schools aided.

Henry Densmore, Missionary for Ionia, Montcalm, Newaygo, Mecosta, Lake and Osceola counties, says:

Passing through one settlement where I organized a Sunday-school five years ago, I drove up to the little log school-house, and finding it filled with hay I was fearful, not only for the Sunday-school but for the people who were very poor. But further on I saw a large white house, and before reaching it I was captured by about forty children. It hardly seemed possible they were the poor ragged children I saw two years ago. But this was only *one* of the many happy schools I found, and these a *few* of the many happy homes I visited.

In some of the lumbering districts the women carry on the Sunday-school all winter while the men are in the lumber camps. They cannot afford to give up the Sunday-school for they get but little other reading.

So far as figures will give the result of my nine months' work, they show 10 new schools with 44 teachers and 268 scholars, (besides visiting and otherwise aiding many times more). I have visited 100 families and travelled 5,578 miles.

Rev. A. S. Badger, labouring in the northern counties along the shore of Lake Michigan, including the region of Grand Traverse Bay, says of his work:

I sat down to rest in a little log house toward which I had been directing my footsteps since morning. I proposed a Sunday-school to the neighbourhood, and in the evening we assembled in a little log

school-house without windows, and only two loose rough boards for seats. By the dim light of a smoky lantern I read to them from the Bible and made an address. A Sunday-school was organized, a few books donated, and God's blessing asked upon the enterprise. All depended upon an aged woman living at some distance, who was its only officer or praying member! She writes: "Six have been born into the kingdom of our Lord, and we expect soon to organize a church."

On another part of my field a school was kept up for two years with the greatest difficulty, owing to the irreligious sentiment in the neighbourhood. I quote from a letter received: "Love has overcome all opposition. Every child within reach is a regular attendant, and the school is rejoicing in an outpouring of God's Spirit that is completely revolutionizing the community."

From March 1st to August 31st, 1872, I organized 7 new schools, with 206 teachers and scholars; visited 350 families; travelled 1950 miles on foot, and made 75 addresses.

NORTH-WESTERN DEPARTMENT.

F. G. Ensign, Superintendent, reports:

While we have pushed the work far out to the frontier, we have kept our missionaries, for the most part, on their fields during the winter, in order that they might follow up what had been begun during the summer, and thus secure the permanency of the schools they have organized. They have held meetings in many districts where the occasional or regular preacher had not yet arrived, and a goodly number of persons in these communities have been led to Christ.

Our pioneer schools have shared richly in the general religious awakening throughout the West. It is worthy of note here, that the most extensive revivals of the past winter have occurred in *union* meetings, signifying, it may be, the mind of the Spirit in reference to the use of means for the conversion of this people. Be this as it may, we have witnessed precious results in our little schools, some of them even extraordinary.

Notwithstanding the severity of the cold, an unusually large proportion of the new schools have been maintained; others have closed only during the coldest weather.

New schools organized, 302; teachers in them, 1469; scholars in them, 9301; other schools visited and aided, 543; teachers in them, 3467; scholars in them, 28,185; Bibles and Testaments distributed,

2736; families visited, 2047; addresses and sermons delivered, 998; miles travelled, 37,396.

In following up the interest thus awakened, we have been careful to encourage the people to feel that the responsibility is upon them; that the maintaining of the schools thus organized must depend, almost solely, upon their efforts. In looking over the field we find results directly attained in a great number of schools. I give a list, numbering the schools, for convenience, in the order in which the reports have come to me, though this is but a partial report; many others will come in after this is in press.

No. 1, 2 conversions; Nos. 2 and 3, churches organized; No. 4, 4 conversions; No. 5, church organized; No. 7, 6 conversions; No. 8, church organized; No. 9, 1 conversion; No. 10, 20 conversions; No. 11, 10 conversions; No. 12, many conversions, church organized; No. 13, church organized; No. 14, 60 conversions; No. 15, 30 conversions; No. 16, 5 conversions; No. 17, 3 conversions; No. 18, 6 conversions; No. 19, 10 conversions; No. 20, 4 conversions; No. 21, 6 conversions; No. 22, 10 conversions; No. 23, 4 conversions; No. 24, 5 conversions; No. 25, 16 conversions; No. 26, 6 conversions; No. 27, 6 conversions; No. 28, 11 conversions; No. 29, 4 conversions; No. 30, 2 conversions; No. 31, 4 conversions; No. 32, 4 conversions; No. 33, 30 conversions; No. 34, over half the school converted; No. 35, 30 conversions; No. 36, general awakening; No. 37, 20 conversions; Nos. 38, 39, 40, shared in rich spiritual blessings; No. 41, general awakening; No. 42, revival just beginning; No. 43, revival and church of 20 members gathered; No. 44, 10 conversions.

This list might be extended, but this is sufficient to indicate the character of the after-work. We do *not* organize schools and leave them to die. Nor are our missionaries travelling strangers. The calls upon them for special meetings during the winter are so numerous that they cannot meet them all; showing clearly how the people for whom we labour regard them. I speak also from personal experience in this matter. Schools that I organized in "sod-houses" and "dug-outs" in the far West, last year, still hold on; and recent letters from the officers assure me that we can never know how much good the little Sunday-schools have done for the children and the adults, and that the schools shall not be given up. One school was organized in a "dug-out" 14 × 20 feet; 35 children attended it. This family soon moved into a "sod-house" and took the Sunday-school with them; and now a school-house is being erected for the school and Sunday-school. Thus we often precede schools, ministers, and churches;

commencing as soon as the settlers come into the community, while the memories of Eastern homes and privileges are still fresh in their minds.

M. B. Lewis writes:

There has been no time within the past thirteen years of my missionary work, when so much labour is asked of the Sunday-school missionary. Besides all that *figures* show, we have fed the hungry, clothed the destitute, sought out the lost and wandering, the sick and sorrowing, and buried their dead: we have stood in the cabin of the pioneer, sad and lonely, disheartened by losses and debts, and have encouraged and aided such to struggle on in the battle of life. We have seen churches grow into life from our Sunday-schools, and scores upon scores, in the "out-of-the-way places," brought into the kingdom, and many delightful proofs of the transforming power of Divine grace upon individuals in families reached by our work, among people of almost all nationalities. The year 1872 shows an increase over 1871. New schools organized, 71; new scholars, 2701; teachers, 434; other schools visited and aided, 28; scholars in these schools, 3026; teachers, 525; families visited in which the reading of the Word and prayer has been enjoyed, 476; miles travelled, largely through the kindness of railway superintendents and directors, 4670; addresses delivered, 141; Bibles and Testaments given to the destitute, 374.

D. H. Mason says:

My labours have been expended in 15 counties, viz.: Meeker, Kandyyohi, Swift, Chippewa, Monongalia, Stevens, Pope, Stearns, Todd, Douglas, Grant, Wilkin, Ottertail, Becker, and Clay. Pecuniary aid sent for the relief of the unfortunate has been disbursed, and actual suffering prevented by it. The clothing provided by the Ladies' Aid Societies of New Rochelle and Geneva has been distributed among the needy. In the autumn the schools were generally in a flourishing condition. The extreme severity of the winter has rendered it perilous to maintain some of those on the prairie. There is a little Sunday-school in Douglas county maintained by the untiring efforts of one man, who is superintendent, secretary, librarian, and teacher for about 20 Scandinavian children, who assemble every Sabbath. Winter vacation is not known to them. A superintendent in Todd county has not been absent one Sabbath since the school began, last spring, and a devoted lady teacher walks a mile each Sabbath to meet her class. Connected with this school is a prayer-meeting, which has resulted in the conversion of over half of their number. The Rising Star and Greenwood Union schools have been richly blessed by revivals. At the former it has been my great privilege to assist in a series of meetings and witness 30 persons openly profess Christ, and, at Greenwood, to conduct the meetings where about 20 in all bore similar testimony. Burnhamville, Silver Lea, and Valley Union schools, in close prox-

imity to these meetings, shared in their blessings. At Forest Union there has been a general awakening. The Union schools of Osakis and West Osakis have also been greatly blessed by recent revivals. Glad tidings come from the school at McCauleyville, Wilkin county, of a work of grace beginning there.

W. M. K. Gunderson writes:

I received my commission in September to labour for Christ principally among my own countrymen, the Scandinavians of Minnesota.

Among the population of Minnesota we have nearly 90,000 Scandinavians. In some counties they have a large majority, and some townships are almost entirely composed of them. In many of the older portions of the country they have churches and regular services; but throughout the state the Sunday-school enterprise among them as a people is unorganized.

Many neighbourhoods on the frontier are visited by the Lutheran minister once in a month or six weeks, when he explains the Holy Word to the youth.

Rev. George W. Prescott states:

I do not know the number of conversions in connection with my labours. In one neighbourhood, where I helped to organize a school last summer, and where I spent a day marked by much interest and feeling, during the winter there has been a revival and a church of some 20 members formed. In another neighbourhood where I assisted in meetings and got the Sunday-school scholars to attend, there were, as nearly as I can judge, at least 10 conversions. Another school pledged itself almost in a body for Jesus. Many meetings have been seasons of interest even to tears, but with what of permanent good the Lord of the harvest only knows.

Dr. J. Wayne Snowden, Nebraska, presents the following statistical report, which shows that he suffers no moments to run to waste:

New schools organized, 92; teachers in them, 402; scholars in them, 2665; schools visited and aided, 90; teachers in them, 296; scholars in them, 2019; Bibles and Testaments distributed, 1336; families visited, 474; miles travelled, 3526; addresses and sermons delivered, 176.

My labours during the past year have been crowned with great success. The prison work among the fallen, is full of interest and good cheer. One writes, "We thank God from our souls that we are permitted to hear the sweet story of the cross, the suffering and death of Jesus, our blessed Saviour." Another says, "I will be frank and confess that your soul-stirring appeals to the fallen inmates of the prison, have done more towards changing my sinful course, than all the preaching I have ever listened to." One who found Jesus precious, says, "I turned to the Lord and found forgiveness. O, what peace! O, what rest!"

I am happy to report that 12 churches were organized this year in the wake of the new schools above noted, and 116 conversions reported.

Thus it may be seen that this work is not barren of immediate results, though by far the greater part of the in-gathering we shall not see or know of; for the seed sown will germinate in a thousand fields, whither it may be carried by a Providential hand, and only the Final Day will reveal where the sowing was done. Still enough is already *seen*, to warrant a vigorous prosecution of this work in the future. We notiee *especially* the field open to us among the Seandinavians of the North-west. Mr. William Gunderson was employed last fall for that special service. He finds a growing desire among his people for the Sunday-school, and as he comes to them speaking the name of none but Christ, finds a ready entrance among them.

In closing this brief outline I am happy to acknowledge the uniform kindness and liberality of the railroad and steamboat lines in this department, in granting favours to our workers, thus facilitating our work and aiding very materially in its extension.

The religious and seeular press have been, as usual, very cordial in their eo-operation with us, in publishing faets showing what has been done through this ageney for the children, and we trust many new friends have been added to our list upon whose liberality we may depend for material aid in the future.

With gratitude to God for the multiplied blessings of the past and a firm reliance upon His promises for the future, we close this record of the past and enter hopefully, nay, joyously, upon the labours of the new year.

Mr. A. W. Corey, who has been in the service of the Soeiety nearly forty-eight years, reports:

I entered the serviee of the Union, in December, 1825, and I have great eonsolation in reviewing the progress and achievements of the Society all over the land, but more espeeially in the distriet where it has been my honoured lot to take a humble part.

In 1845, when the supervision of the work in the Valley of the Mississippi was first assigned to me, very little missionary work had been done by the Society in the district for several years. And there were very few schools except those connected with the loeal churehes, and many believed that they eould not sustained be apart from them.

In a general survey of the field—preparatory to my entering upon the work—in a tour of a thousand miles from Cairo to Chieago, and across to Galena, and thence through Iowa to St. Louis, I found, as

I now remember, but one school, except those in connection with and sustained by particular churches. And in scores of churches there was no school. I also found that in some sections, the cause of Christian education, in almost any form, was exceedingly low.

Now, if after a quarter of a century I take the same circuit, diverging some fifty miles each way, I shall find many hundred Union schools, a large proportion of which have no more direct connection with any particular church organization than the common schools in the same places have; they are held in district school-houses, in private dwellings, in barns, and in the new settlements, sometimes in groves. I have heard of one in a still-house, another in a corn-crib and another in a railroad car.

If I look a little further, I shall find hundreds of churches that have grown out of the Sunday-schools planted by our missionaries since that, by which it will appear, that the Union school, instead of living by the sufferance of the church, or being dependent upon it, has pioneered the church itself into existence. The first chapter in the history of a large proportion of the new churches in the West, if faithfully written, will contain a record of the fact.

My individual report for the year just closed embraces 11 schools organized, 69 teachers and 412 scholars; 17 schools visited and aided, 105 teachers and 740 scholars. Total, 28 schools, 174 teachers and 1152 scholars, among whom I have distributed books, &c., to the amount of $277 51, to wit: by sales, $118 34 and donation, $159 17. Besides 71 Bibles and Testaments.

These schools were organized under the circumstances that usually attend the planting of schools in the new settlements. Most of the teachers are immigrants from the Eastern States. The new schools are all in locations where there was never a Sunday-school before, and where they have never had a settled ministry, and seldom preaching. They are germs from which we confidently expect churches and other gospel institutions to arise.

THE SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT.

Rev. W. P. Paxson, superintendent, reports:

This field is pre-eminently a mission field. In Missouri we are helped in our mission work, and in Kansas also, by the public school system, which builds the school-house in which we may establish the Bible school; but in the other States in this district, we have to organize in the "Old Field School-house," which we find here and there, at long intervals, or in some deserted dwelling; and often we find an insuperable obstacle in the fact that there is no house in which to hold the Bible school; yet there are thousands of children in these places, in the "pine slashes" of Arkansas, and the "glades" of Mississippi and Louisiana, who must have the Bible school. What

we have done, and the adaptability of this Soeiety to this work, may be seen by the following reports from our missionaries.

Mr. W. J. Hayden, of Southwest Missouri, who has been labouring in that field for the last seven years, writes:

'God has blessed the work on my field of labour during the last year. I have been enabled to plant 35 Sunday-schools, eontaining 245 teaehers and 2118 seholars; I have also visited and aided 60 schools, eontaining 413 teaehers and 4071 scholars; have travelled mostly on horsebaek in performing this work, 3894 miles; have distributed a large number of Bibles and Testaments, and donated in books and periodicals, nearly $200.

At many plaees where I have established Union sehools, there have been delightful revivals of religion. God has poured out his Holy Spirit, and ehurehes have been established, the outgrowth of these sehools. I know of eight ehurehes whieh have grown out of our little Union Sehools the past year. I have learned of 28 or 30 ehureh organizations that have grown out of Sunday-schools that I have planted in south-western Missouri; and more than half of these sehools have grown into preaching-points or ehurehes, now having regular preaching.

John Cassell, missionary for Southern Kansas, says:

We have worked among 3246 ehildren, established 35 new sehools and aided and addressed 59 others; furnished $309 46 worth of Sunday-sehool literature; 222 eopies of the Scriptures have been supplied. We have travelled to do this work, 2909 miles on horseback, with the exception of a few miles on the ears to Sunday-school conventions; visited 382 families for religious purposes; addressed 101 Sunday-sehools, besides work at eonventions and other gatherings, and had mueh eorrespondenee with offieers of Sunday-sehools and in conneetion with the Sunday-sehool work.

The missionary is weleomed by all evangelieal denominations, as well as by the godless who have no regard for religion only as it produces good order in a eommunity.

But there has been more real Sunday-sehool work done in Southern Kansas than in any year during its settlement. The missionary effort eauses emulation among existing schools, and ereates a desire for sehools in plaees where the ehildren would otherwise run wild.

The "Godfrey Sunday-sehool" was organized last spring. The superintendent reports two conversions this month directly through the Sabbath-sehool, besides many others who acknowledged Christ during a revival meeting last summer. The way was eleared and ground prepared by the Sunday-school workers. Up to the time of the revival, the paymaster had paid the eoal-miners with a pistol by his side to enforee order; now good order prevails without foree. Last spring while visiting among the people of Fish Creek Distriet,

we came to the cabin of a coloured family, a wretched hovel it was—no floor but the native earth—house built of rude logs, mud-daubed to keep the wind out; there was a woman with several children in the house. After salutations we said, "Can you read?" "No sah, but my gal can." "Have you a Bible?" "No sah." "Would you like one?" "Yas sah, but we be too poor." "If I give you one will you get your daughter to read it to you, and she can teach you to read it?" "Yas sah, but 'tis hard for brack folks to learn when they be old." We left the Gospel here and thought no more of it, as the sower who drops the seed in his field, leaving the result to God. We visited this locality last Sunday; the negro girl had hired out to work in the family of an infidel, where the Bible was constantly ridiculed by members of the family. She went to her mother and told what she heard, for it troubled her mind. Her mother told her to read the Bible and see what it said about it. She did so, and the reading and the study of the Word resulted in her conversion and enrollment in Christ's church; so that the infidel family really aided in the girl's conversion by troubling her mind with doubt.

Mr. J. O. Pierce, who laboured three months in South-eastern Missouri, writes:

I found in the locality in which I laboured at first, little interest manifested in the Sunday-school cause, but met opposing elements on every hand. Before I came away the people were becoming enthusiastic and the general cry was, "Come and help us;" opposition gradually gave way. I was compelled to leave the field, "white already to harvest." I found some localities without day school, or Sunday-school, and having preaching very seldom. A little girl wanted to know if Sunday-school was "good to eat." I organized several new schools; but there are many places where schools could be organized and would be the means of bringing many to Christ. I organized a school in Madison county; I was told not to go there, I might not get out alive. I met the lion, and being in God's appointed way, it did not slay me. The school was organized, and many came, not Christians only, but gamblers and a saloon-keeper also. There was one Christian lady only in the community. The school lived and flourished; the saloon went down. At another place, where I spent most of the summer, the Sabbath was desecrated without shame, and intemperance prevailed. Mr. Paxson organized the school in this place, a few weeks before I was sent there. People flocked to it; preaching became more frequent, and I understand that a fine church is now being erected. Before the school was organized there had been only one sermon since the war; now preaching is frequent. Small and out-of-way places should not be neglected. Schools organized, 16; having teachers, 84; scholars, 665; schools visited and aided, 12; having teachers, 89; scholars, 670; families visited, 68; Bibles and Testaments given away, 113; addresses delivered, 44; miles travelled, 1441.

We also employed a missionary for Northwest Missouri, Mr. W. S. Earle, who laboured acceptably for four months of this year, and Rev. S. W. McCorkle, who laboured but two months, and whose very precious work was interrupted by his ill health.

The following is the summary of work in this district for the year: schools organized, 173; teachers, 1036; scholars, 7818; schools aided, 222; teachers, 1490; scholars, 12,547.

SOUTHERN DEPARTMENT.

Rev. John McCullagh, Henderson, Ky., Superintendent, reports:

During the past year I spent several months in visiting consecutively the various fields of our missionaries in the South, so that I might aid and counsel them in their arduous work. The sympathy and love which I found flowing out to these self-denying brethern, from the hearts of the people among whom they are labouring, gave no less occasion for gratitude on my part, than did the warm-hearted, open-handed cordiality by which I was everywhere received over the entire South. Pastors and people alike heartily welcomed me for my work's sake with such kindness as can never be forgotten, and with a generous liberality which will be of material and important help to our cause.

The following figures will give a summary of the work in the South during the past year:

New schools organized, 261; teachers in the same, 1429; scholars in the same, 12,622; schools visited, aided and addressed, 649; teachers in the same, 4523; scholars in the same, 36,360; Bibles and Testaments distributed, 4226; families visited, 1946; miles travelled, 42,483; addresses delivered, 1227.

We now count among the results of this work in past years, 7411 new Sunday-schools, and the foundation of 650 churches. Hundreds of facts might be given showing our trials and triumphs on this great harvest-field. The following will serve as samples.

A missionary in Virginia writes:

I organized four new Sabbath-schools during one month, and aided a pastor in reorganizing a school that had gone down. God blessed these labours and many were added to the Lord. Among the first fruits, were fifteen scholars from that Bible school.

My success among the freedmen has been really astonishing; exceeding my most sanguine expectation.

Not long since I addressed a large concourse of freedmen on a Sunday afternoon, and learned afterwards that the forenoon meeting had been broken up by appeals for collections by their leaders for

various purposes: and as they are quite poor, their pockets had been drained. As soon, therefore, as I began to speak of their need of a Sunday-school, there was a general exodus, until a woman in the congregation cried out, "Tell dem people to stop and come back, and not be skeered 'bout dar empty pockets, for I seed and heered dis man at Union Hill, and he ar'nt arter dar money, but arter doin dem good." So they stopped, and we organized a Sabbath-school of 100 scholars, with the assurance of a large increase. The whites promised to help.

A missionary from Kentucky, writes:

I recently visited Candonville. The first man I met owned a large distillery at the time I organized the Sunday-school; he has abandoned the iniquitous business and is now an advocate for temperance, and is a Sunday-school teacher. Since I organized this school forty-six persons have been hopefully converted; a growing interest is manifested in every thing that refines and elevates society. Several grown men have learned to read the Bible.

The Sunday-school at B—— F—— recently enjoyed a precious revival; 21 persons were hopefully converted and are now praising God for his condescending love. B—— was once noted as one of the worst places in Bullitt county, but the Sunday-school introduced the Bible. Children read it in the Sunday-school and at home, talked about it; then men and women got to reading the Bible, and God has sealed instruction to their hearts, so that since I organized the Sunday-school in B——, a church has been organized which now numbers over one hundred members.

Another missionary states:

Had a grand time visiting the mountain regions, not before canvassed; found excellent opportunities and a warm reception; and in a few days organized four new schools with 250 scholars. One soon increased from 50 to 100, and the others in like ratio. On my next visit, a few week afterwards, I found them so much interested in the work that I felt it would be cruel to leave them; so I remained several days and held the first series of religious meetings ever known there, and by God's blessing, through the power of the Holy Ghost, nineteen persons were enabled to lay hold by faith on Jesus as their own precious loving Saviour. The people are now preparing to build a new house for worship. They ascribe this blessing, even the moral change of an entire neighbourhood, to that Union School.

A missionary in Tennessee writes:

I have visited 60 counties of the 93 in this state, and find great destitution especially in the mountain counties. In one I found last year 35 brandy stills and only 5 Sunday-schools: out of 1720 families in this county, 550 were destitute of the word of God.

I am happy to report the success and progress of two Sabbath-schools aided by a generous contribution from the Bellefield Presbyterian Union Sabbath-school, near Pittsburgh.

Had it not been for the encouragement I was able to give the Washington school through the liberality of our friends at Bellefield, it would soon have died out as it had done two or three times before. On the reception of their beautiful and well selected library a new impulse was given to the school, and this life was felt in the church and through the community, awaking the sleepy followers of Christ into new activity. A most precious revival of religion followed and some seventy sinners were brought to the saving knowledge of the truth and found pardon in the merits of a crucified Redeemer.

A missionary from North Carolina writes:

For the past few weeks I have been attending some of the annual meetings of different denominations in the western district of our state. Have travelled over portions of my old missionary ground, and to my great gratification found very many of our Union schools manifesting a lively and cheering interest. Among other facts presented in a report which was read in my hearing before one of these meetings, purporting to be an historical sketch of one of our leading denominations for the last fifteen years, I felt particularly interested in the following statement, to wit: "Nearly all the great and good work accomplished in the bounds of this body in the cause of Sunday-schools, is justly attributable to the efficient agency of the American Sunday-School Union." On the very spot of ground occupied by this assembly, your missionary planted a Sunday-school of 35 members, three years ago. You may imagine the pleasure afforded on the present occasion, while noting some of the signs of its progress. Here stands a new house for the children—too small, however, for the crowd that gathers to-day to hear the missionary talk. Out yonder, a few rods, where once stood a filthy looking cabin with its contents advertised, "*Whiskey by the littles*," now may be seen a neat comfortable dwelling, to which is attached a good country store-house kept by a Christian gentleman, whose bright-eyed boys and girls accompany him to the Sunday-school. Last Sabbath, as I stood in the midst of about five hundred attentive hearers commending the love of Jesus, the good news came from an adjacent county that seventy-five or eighty children, connected with some of our recently organized schools, had professed faith in our precious Redeemer.

From a missionary in South Carolina:

There never was a time when there was so imperative a need for Sunday-schools in this state as now. The majority of the people have become greatly reduced in their pecuniary resources, and so are employing their children very closely in the daily avocations of life—so much so as to deprive them of the advantages of day-schools, even where these are possessed; while most, from the scattered condition of the population, are not favoured with such advantages.

During the past year I visited a region of country which I found in a most deplorable religious destitution, with no ministrations of the word; a roofless and floorless building was once, in better days,

designated a church. There I met a goodly number of Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians, who regarded themselves as too poor to supply themselves with any means of grace whatever

I preached to them under the old shed, and at the close exhorted them to effort for the benefit of their children, of which there were a large number in the settlement. I accordingly organized a Sabbath-school of 40 scholars to begin with, and furnished it with a library and took my leave. About two months after I had occasion to pass through that neighbourhood, when, to my great surprise and gratification, I found an entirely new state of things. After I left, the people held a meeting and resolved to repair the old building for the benefit of the school and other religious services on the Sabbath. This they did and made a comfortable building of it. There the three denominations take their little ones every Sabbath to school, after which they usually spend some time in prayer and praise; occasionally they secure some preaching from one of the ministers of Camden, a town ten miles off. But this is not the whole visible result of that single effort, for I also found on this second visit that this feeling had spread to the coloured people, who were now ready for like instruction. So I organized two Sabbath-schools among them at that time. This is but one of the several similar cases illustrating the wonderfully expansive character of this simple and yet powerful agency.

I have recently been visiting Sunday-schools organized some time ago, and find, without a solitary exception, an increase in numbers, regularity of attendance, and a marked improvement of knowledge among the freedmen.

A missionary from Georgia writes as follows:

A few weeks ago I met with a poor, uneducated man, who had become a scholar in a Sunday-school organized in his neighbourhood last year. He gave me a very interesting account of himself. He said, "I went to the school every Sunday, and tried very hard to learn to read; after a while I could spell out the words, and then I got so that I could read along in the Testament slowly. The more I read I was distracted and confused in my mind, studying about my soul's salvation. I began to think I was lost, and could never find pardon. Everything about me seemed to warn me that there was no hope for me. I thought I was sure to perish until one Sunday I heard one of the teachers explaining the lesson to some scholars, how it said that the blessed Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. I said to myself, 'That means me, I am lost;' so I found pardon and peace at the Cross. Ofttimes we pray in the Sunday-school for God to bless you and the good people who sent you and those books to us."

Another missionary reports:

Last year I organized a number of Sabbath-schools in C—— county. I rejoice to tell you that three of them, through the Divine blessing have grown into churches; thus you see that the Bible school is a grand church-extension scheme.

Statement of missionary work done by the Virginia Sunday-School Union and under the auspiees of the Amerieau Sunday-school Union from January 1, 1873, to April 1, 1873, among the eolored people of the eastern portion of the State.

Sunday-sehools organized in destitute plaees, 15; old Sunday-sehools aided and visited, 219; ehildren under fourteen years of age in new sehools, 565; teaehers in new Sunday-sehools organized, 52; men and women in new sehools, 1515; seholars in new and old Sunday-sehools, 14,007; teaehers in old Sunday-sehools, 1,089; Bibles and Testaments donated, 148; families visited, 800; Sunday-sehool sermons from pastors of ehureh es, 120; addresses in Sunday-sehools, 157; missionaries under pay, 2; value of books and papers donated to above sehools, $379 28.

This organization has its seat in Norfolk, and is exelusively devoted to operations among the eoloured people. The missionaries employed by it report great destitution and need of help, and mueh eneouragement in the proseeution of the work.

PACIFIC COAST.

Here the work has suffered in eonsequenee of the death of the late lamented Peters; but 22 new sehools have been organized, and 27 others have been visited and aided.

Mr. W. N. Meserve, who laboured sueeessfully for this eause in Vermont, has been eommissioned as the sueeessor of Mr. Peters.

FOREIGN SUNDAY-SCHOOL WORK.

This report is furnished by Albert Woodruff, Esq., one of our Viee-Presidents, and a member of the Foreign Sunday-School Committee. This Committee has laboured by a general eorrespondenee, with hardly one missionary to a language, to arouse and utilize the moral forees in these eountries. How they sueeeed ean only be alluded to, not deseribed in the spaee left us for this part of our Report.

FRANCE.—By the vigourous eo-operation of our English friends, the Paris eommittee have been freed from the embarrassment oeeasioned by the war, and they have employed a missionary, with a view of plaeing a Sunday-school in eonneetion with every preaehing station in that great eountry. Another Union has been organized in the South of Franee, and a work eommeneed by them, now equalling, if not exeeeding, that of the Paris Committee.

Preparations are making to supply the Freneh Sunday-sehools with library books; and it only remains to give to the youth of Franee a good Sunday-sehool paper, in order to realize the hope too long deferred, that France will be among the most aetive workers in Europe.

Switzerland, within the last year, has made considerable progress. A young Swiss gentleman, an active correspondent of our Association, having caught the spirit of our Institution in this country, is now publishing in Lausanne, at his own expense, the best periodical for teachers in the French language. As an illustration of the principles above alluded to, a gentleman has died at Vevay bequeathing to him and his colleagues 10,000 francs, to be expended in the Canton de Vaud, for the benefit of Sunday-schools.

The little paper for children, not yet 12 years old, has a circulation of about 15,000.

Italy.—In Rome there have been organized three or four new schools, and in all parts of Italy some progress has been made in the Sunday-school cause. Some pastors have been quickened to more active exertions in Sunday-schools, and the Sunday-school paper is very generally taken in the schools, and a change has come over many of the people respecting the importance of having the American and English system of classes introduced.

There are only about 80 schools yet in Italy, and many of them are small. But within the year, many prejudices have yielded to an intelligent conviction that Sunday-schools are to be the prominent means of evangelization in Italy, and a resolution was passed at the last general meeting of the Waldensian clergy that the young men about to be licensed to preach, should be required to pass an examination as to their ability to organize and conduct a Sunday-school.

In Spain a few schools have been organized; but the work has assumed no new phase since our report of the last year.

The same may be said of Sweden, Greece, Mexico, Buenos Ayres, Central America and Brazil.

Denmark, also, is stretching out her hands and calling loudly for Sunday-schools. A few have been established.

Germany has been the theatre of our greatest success. Here where at first the greatest prejudices had to be overcome, we have had a demonstration, not only of the power of this agency as the best means of evangelization, but of the adaptation of the Gospel principles to meet the wants and cure the evils of society, whether social, civil, or political.

In all parts of Germany, where at first the most intelligent men and women and clerical assemblies saw only a useless innovation upon the day-school system of religious teaching, sentiment has changed, and now on the one hand there is a lively interest and personal activity, and on the other a passing of resolutions more than commendatory, for the establishment of Sunday-schools in every parish in the empire.

A report just received from Mr. Bröcklemann, our indefatigable

co-labourer there, gives more than 500 schools with 3,268 teachers, and 61,700 scholars, as the result of his own labours, accompanied with the voluntary and self-sacrificing aid of the best men and minds in Germany.

HOLLAND.—Great as has been the work in Germany, in Holland, in proportion to the population and the means expended, the results have been much greater. Within the same period of time a few hard workers have wielded the institution as a means of arousing the masses to some kind of religious activity, and by means of our popular hymns and the printing press have brought into Sunday-school connection more than 40,000 children.

The rapidity of the movement and the want of teachers have been the cause of very imperfect organization; but two popular Unions and a persevering inquiry and determination to bring order out of temporary confusion, are guarantees that Holland will soon be foremost in the cause of moral reform on the continent of Europe.

JAPAN.—Through Mrs. Pruyn, a lady labouring in Japan, a Sunday-school has been formed by our assistance, and another labourer has since followed her example and commenced a second school.

CONCLUSION.

We have thus sketched the outlines of the work of the American Sunday-School Union for another year; rapidly passing over its great field, co-extensive with our national domain, and touching upon "the regions beyond." How vast the territory, and how numerous the population surging into it, scattering and spreading everywhere! What myriads of children to be won to Christ and educated for usefulness and heaven!

As we approach our year of jubilee, we anticipate its glad hosannas and thanksgivings for what this union of Christian hearts and hands has been enabled by the Master to devise and do for His glory, and for the instruction and salvation of our children and youth.

We rejoice in all that has been accomplished for these ends by other agencies. But the facts and testimonies which we have now and so often recorded, demonstrate the truth of the published sentiment of ALBERT BARNES, "The Union principle is the only one on which this work can be most successfully prosecuted, especially among the sparsely settled and greatly divided inhabitants of the new frontier states;" a sentiment abundantly endorsed by many of the wisest and best men of our country.

The American Sunday-School Union,

IN ACCOUNT WITH THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THE MISSIONARY FUND.

For The Year ending February 28th, 1873.

To receipts from March 1, 1872, to March 1, 1873,	$81,183 20	By balance excess of expenditures in missionary work in former years,	$11,098 17
" Legacies received during the year,	4,330 79	" Amount of salaries paid missionaries, and expenses of the department,	72,892 46
" Balance, being excess of expenditures in missionary work for this, and previous years,	15,042 71	" Amount expended by auxiliary societies,	3,000 83
		" Books and other Sunday-school requisites given to schools,	13,565 24
	$100,556 70		$100,556 70

The Rev. J. H. VINCENT, D.D. (Methodist-Episcopal), of New York, in a cordial and happy speech said:

I have a few words of commendation, if they be not unappropriate, and a few words of congratulation, to offer to this American Sunday-School Union. I commend the Sunday-School Union first, because there cannot be too many agencies for the spread of the Gospel. The millions wait to know of Christ. Let every man, and every appliance on the earth, that has been touched by the Spirit of Christ, awake and to work. * * *

As long as an agency has accomplished as much as has the American Sunday-School Union, I want to say to it, God speed. I am a denominationalist, positive, and, I had almost said, extreme, and yet I have an intense love for all who love the Lord Jesus Christ. * * *

I believe that the work of the American Sunday-School Union is performed, in a great many cases, where denominations utterly fail to reach the demand of the case. There are a thousand neighbourhoods where the denominations do not do the work, and in those places how glad I am that the American Sunday-School Union is prepared for the service!

Again, the American Sunday-School Union is not a sect; it is not a church; it does not plant itself among the denominations, claiming sympathy from the public as one of the denominations. It labours to organize Sunday-schools to turn them over to some denomination as soon as practicable; and because in so many cases union schools became denominational schools I sympathize with its work. * * *

While it is our first duty to help our denominational organizations, yet, after we have given liberally to these, it wont hurt any of us to put our hands into our pockets and reach out a little beyond our own. It does a man good, not only to be loyal to his own church, and labour for it; but, once in a while, to reach the hand over and help the rest. As Wordsworth says:

> "Give all thou canst; high Heaven disdains the lore
> Of nicely calculated less or more."

Let us give liberally in this great cause.

The Rev. RICHARD NEWTON, D.D. (Protestant-Episcopal), offered appropriate resolutions in regard to the Society's work, which were unanimously adopted by the vast audience.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The legal form of bequest is, "I GIVE AND BEQUEATH TO THE AMERICAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION, ESTABLISHED IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, —— DOLLARS."

In no case are contributions applied to carry on the business department of the Society's operations, nor for any objects other than those designated by the givers.

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Persons desiring information concerning the Missionary Work should address

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Rev. E. W. RICE, Assistant Secretary of Missions,
1122 CHESTNUT STEEET, PHILADELPHIA.

Communications relative to the work in New York may be addressed to

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NOS. 8 & 10 BIBLE HOUSE, ASTOR PLACE.

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